

Nevada Social Studies Standards

History Glossary

abolition, abolitionism: a movement calling for the prohibition of slavery

Age of Exploration: European sponsored explorations of Africa, Asia, and the Americas during the 16th and 17th centuries

alliances (World War I): Triple Entente — consisting of Great Britain, France and Russia; Triple Alliance — consisting of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Ottoman Empire (Turkey, Bulgaria)

antebellum United States: a period of U.S. history prior to the United States Civil War, 1830-1861

anti-federalists: a term referring to those who opposed the ratification of the U.S. Constitution

“Aryan supremacy”: an ethnological term lacking recognized scholarly validity used by Nazis to refer to the superiority of Caucasians on non-Jewish heritage

Big Four: World War II – Great Britain, USSR, United States, and China – those nations participating in the wartime conferences

biotechnology: the use of data and techniques of engineering and technology for the study of problems concerning living organisms

Black Codes: a continuation of slave codes following the Civil War to deny Africa-Americans their civil rights

capitalism: an economic system in which all or most of the means of production, distribution, and exchange are privately owned and operated for profit

CE: a term for dating events or eras used in modern historical writing meaning “Common Era,” synonymous with the previously used term “AD”

concentration and death camps: a set of terms referring to the German World War II camps that interred and/or killed those people considered political enemies of the Nazis

Confederation period: the period of time from 1781-1789 during which the United States operated under the Articles of Confederation

corporate capitalism: an economic system in which corporations (companies owned by stockholders) own all or most of the means of production, distribution, and exchange and operate them for profit

cultural context: to reference an event or situation from the perspective of specific groups of people

demographics: the characteristics of a population as classified by age, gender, income, location, or employment

Desert Archaic people: prehistoric Nevada inhabitants, such as the Lovelock cave people.

détente: relaxation of strained relations between nations, especially among the United States, the Soviet Union, and China in the 1970s and late 1980s

Dollar Diplomacy: a popular term referring to the foreign policy of the William Howard Taft Administration using diplomacy to protect U.S. investments abroad and utilizing economic incentives to uphold or direct foreign policy

domestication: the taming of animals for human uses, or to adapt wild plants for cultivation

Emancipation Proclamation: a directive issued by President Abraham Lincoln, in which enslaved people in states or portions of states still in rebellion were declared free

Enlightenment: a 17th and 18th century movement emphasizing the significance of reason and scientific inquiry

factory system: a system of manufacturing in which the steps or stages of production are housed in one or more buildings in close proximity

federalism: a form of government consisting of a union of states in which each member agrees to subordinate its governmental power to that of a central authority in common affairs

feudalism: an economic, political, and social system in medieval Europe, in which land was held by vassals in exchange for military and other services given to overlords

“Final Solution”: the euphemism adopted by the Nazi government for the proposal at the Wannsee Conference to exterminate Jews in Germany and in conquered territories

fine arts: art, photography, dance, sculpture, architecture, and music

free market economy: an economy in which the buying and selling of goods and services may be carried on without restrictions as to price and valuation

GI Bill: a reference to legislation enacted by Congress after World War II giving certain educational, vocational training, housing, health, and insurance benefits

graphic organizer: a visual representation of information such as a chart, time line, or calendar

Great Depression: a term designating the economic problems of the United States and other nations during the 1930s

hereditary monarchy: a kingship in which power is bestowed from one generation to the next

horizontal integration/consolidation: the monopolized control of one aspect of production

hunter-gatherer: the term used to describe a person from a culture where the members hunt and/or gather their food

imperialism: a policy in which stronger nations attempt to create empires by dominating weaker nations economically, politically, or militarily; also called **expansionism**

Industrial Revolution: a period of major economic change characterized by changing technology, machine production, and the concentration of workers in urban areas

industrialization: the establishment of an economic and social system characterized by large industries, machine production, and the concentration of workers in urban areas

informational tools: any graphic source of data or information

institutions: systems or methods of organizing activities

- economic institutions –ways in which production, distribution, and exchange are organized
- social institutions –ways in which cultural activities are organized
- political institutions –ways in which governance is organized

internment camps: detention camps established primarily for persons of Japanese descent in the United States during World War II

Jim Crow Laws: laws that legalized segregation of and discrimination against African Americans after the United States Civil War. The expression “Jim Crow” refers to an early minstrel song

judicial review: a feature of the United States Constitutional system set forth in *Marbury v. Madison* in which the Supreme Court of the United States may declare an action of the executive or legislative branches unconstitutional

Kristallnacht: a term given to the “Night of Broken Glass,” during which Nazi troops stormed Jewish ghettos in Germany in November 1938, killing or capturing approximately 30,000 Jews and destroying synagogues, homes, and property

Manifest Destiny: an idea popular during the 1840s stating it was the right and duty of the United States to expand its boundaries

McCarthyism: an expression applied to the zealous search for Communists in various U.S. institutions during the 1950s

mechanized assembly line: an assembly line in which a worker performs a specialized task in assembling a product as it is passed along a mechanical conveyor system, usually consisting of belts or rollers

Mesopotamia: civilizations located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the Middle East

Mexican War acquisitions: a term referring to areas of Mexico that became part of the United States as a result of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo and the Gadsen Purchase of 1853

nationalism: a belief that one’s nation and its interests are of primary importance

nativism: the practice or policy of favoring native-born citizens over immigrants

Open Door Policy: a proposal made in 1899 by U.S. Secretary of State John Hay asking that those European nations with leaseholds or spheres of influence in China respect certain Chinese rights, and the ideal of fair competition

political spectrum: the designation of political beliefs on a continuum from radical to reactionary

political, economic alliances: terms referring to the creation of political and economic agreements and compacts in the 20th century, including NATO, NAFTA, and the European Union

popular sovereignty: a principle of government in which the vote of the citizens is considered the final authority; also: a term applied during the pre-Civil War era to the proposed popular elections on the issue of slavery in previously unorganized territories

Populist Movement: a movement in the rural areas of the United States seeking reforms in transportation (railroad regulation) and monetary policy (silver coinage)

pre-agricultural society: a society in which economic activities are associated with hunting or gathering, and which are not associated with the domestication of animals or the production of crops

Progressive Movement: a movement in urban areas calling for reforms in government, social institutions, and social welfare

radicals, radicalism (radical politics): a reference to various movements in the United States in the early 20th century, including syndicalism (a proposed economic system in which production and distribution are controlled by trade union federations), anarchism, communism, and socialism

ratification: the approval or confirmation of a governmental proposal

Reconstruction: a period of United States history from 1865-1877 during which southern states were reorganized politically, ending with the withdrawal of federal troops

Reformation: a religious movement that began when Martin Luther challenged the authority of the Pope and the Catholic Church and resulted in Protestantism

religious fundamentalism: a set of religious beliefs based on a literal interpretation of everything in the Bible and regarded as fundamental to Christian faith and morals; a 20th century movement among some Protestant sects in the United States

religious revival: a term designating the Great Awakening, and the Second Great Awakening in early U.S. history

Renaissance: the revival of art, literature, and learning in Europe in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, beginning in Italy and spreading gradually to other European countries

reservation system: a policy of the United States government to restrict the habitation of Native Americans to designated lands

Russian Civil War: civil war ending with the defeat of the “White Russians”(anti-Bolsheviks) by the “Red Russians”(Bolsheviks)

“Star Wars”: a satellite-operated defense system (Strategic Defense Initiative) proposed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983

suburbanization: the movement of people from cities to adjacent areas

suffrage: the right to vote

tiered time line: a combination of two or more linear diagrams on which information concerning people, events, and/or issues of the same time period is displayed for comparison

time line: a linear diagram indicating people, events, and/or issues in chronological order

totalitarianism: a government or state in which one political party or group maintains complete control under a dictatorship

urbanization: the demographic process in which cities develop and grow

Utopian movement: a term referring to several attempts to establish “perfect” communities in the United States in the middle of the 19th century

vertical integration/consolidation: control of all phases of a product’s development, from raw materials to the finished product